CLAIMS

1. A method of treating pain comprising administering a therapeutic amount of a analgesic condensation aerosol, having an MMAD less than 3 μm and less than 5% analgesic degradation products, to a patient by inhalation, upon activation by the patient of the formation of, and delivery of, the condensation aerosol.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said condensation aerosol is formed by

a. volatilizing an analgesic under conditions effective to produce a heated vapor of the analgesic; and

b. condensing the heated vapor of the analgesic to form condensation aerosol particles.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein at least 50% by weight of the condensation aerosol is amorphous in form.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein said administration results in a peak plasma concentration of said analgesic in less than 0.1 hours.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the analgesic is selected from the group consisting of acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the administered aerosol is formed at a rate greater than 0.5 mg/second.

7. A method of treating pain comprising administering a therapeutic amount of an acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol condensation aerosol, having an MMAD less than 3 μm and less than 5% acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol degradation products, to a patient by inhalation, upon activation by the patient of the formation of, and delivery of, the condensation aerosol.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said condensation aerosol is formed by

a. volatilizing acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol under conditions effective to produce a heated vapor of acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol; and

b. condensing the heated vapor of acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol to form condensation aerosol particles.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said administration results in a peak plasma concentration of said acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol in less than 0.1 hours.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein at least 50% by weight of the condensation aerosol is amorphous in form.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein said tramadol condensation aerosol has an inhalable aerosol mass density of between 10 mg/L and 50 mg/L when delivered.

12. The method according to claim 7, wherein said acetaminophen condensation aerosol has an inhalable aerosol mass density of between 30 mg/L and 500 mg/L when delivered.

13. The method according to claim 7, wherein said orphenadrine condensation aerosol has an inhalable aerosol mass density of between 30 mg/L and 70 mg/L when delivered.

14. A method of administering an analgesic to a patient to achieve a peak plasma drug concentration rapidly, comprising administering to the patient by inhalation an aerosol of an analgesic having less than 5% analgesic degradation products and an MMAD less than 3 microns wherein the peak plasma drug concentration is achieved in less than 0.1 hours.

15. A method of administering acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol to a patient to achieve a peak plasma drug concentration rapidly, comprising administering to the patient by inhalation an aerosol of acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol having less than 5% acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol degradation products and an MMAD less than 3 microns wherein the peak plasma drug concentration is achieved in less than 0.1 hours.

16. A kit for delivering a drug aerosol comprising:

a) a thin coating of an analgesic composition and

b) a device for dispensing said thin coating as a condensation aerosol.

17. The kit of claim 16, wherein the analgesic in the composition is selected from the group consisting of acetaminophen, orphenadrine or tramadol.

18. The kit of claim 16, wherein the device for dispensing said coating of an analgesic composition as an aerosol comprises

(a) a flow through enclosure,

(b) contained within the enclosure, a metal substrate with a foil-like surface and having a thin coating of the analgesic composition formed on the substrate surface,

(c) a power source that can be activated to heat the substrate to a temperature effective to volatilize the analgesic composition contained in said coating, and

(d) inlet and exit portals through which air can be drawn through said device by inhalation,

wherein heating the substrate by activation of the power source is effective to form an analgesic vapor containing less than 5% analgesic degradation products, and drawing air through said chamber is effective to condense the analgesic vapor to form aerosol particles wherein the aerosol has an MMAD of less than 3 microns.

19. The kit according to claim 18, wherein the heat for heating the substrate is generated by an exothermic chemical reaction.

20. The kit according to claim 19, wherein said exothermic chemical reaction is oxidation of combustible materials.

21. The kit according to claim 18, wherein the heat for heating the substrate is generated by passage of current through an electrical resistance element.

22. The kit according to Claim 18, wherein said substrate has a surface area dimensioned to accommodate a therapeutic dose of an analgesic composition in said coating.

23. The kit according to claim 16, wherein a peak plasma concentration of analgesic is obtained in less than 0.1 hours after delivery of the condensation aerosol to the pulmonary system.

24. The kit of claim 16, further including instructions for use.